

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-19, 21-28, and 31-35 are currently pending. Claims 8, 20, 29-30, and 36-63 have been canceled without prejudice.

The Examiner has identified in the application the following patentably distinct inventions:

- I. Claims 1-37, drawn to a direct lever system for an engine, classified in class 123, subclass 90.41;
- II. Claims 38-55, drawn to a method of manufacturing a valve-operating lever, classified in class 29, subclass 888.2; and
- III. Claims 56-63, drawn to a method of assembling a valve-operating lever, classified in class 74, subclass 569.

The Examiner has required election of one of the inventions for prosecution. Applicant respectfully elects to prosecute the invention of Group I including Claims 1-37. Applicant has canceled the remaining claims without prejudice and reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter of the cancelled claims. Applicant has also canceled Claims 8, 20, 29-30, and 36-37 for the reasons set forth below.

The Examiner has identified in the application the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species I, as illustrated in Figs. 3-7;

Species II, as illustrated in Figs. 8-8a, and 16;

Sub-species I, as illustrated in Fig. 9;

Sub-species II, as illustrated in Fig. 10;

Sub-species III, as illustrated in Fig. 11;

Sub-species IV, as illustrated in Fig. 12; and

Sub-species V, as illustrated in Fig. 13;

The Examiner has required election of one of the species and subspecies for prosecution. Applicants respectfully elect to prosecute the combination of Species I shown in Figs. 3-7 and Sub-species 1 shown in Fig. 9. Claims 1-7, 9-19, 21-28, and 31-35 are readable on the species sub-species combination. Applicant reserves the right to add back claims to the non-elected species or sub-species if a generic claim is allowed.

Furthermore, Applicant points out that Claims 1 and 25 are generic to Species I illustrated in Figs. 3-7 and Species II illustrated in Figs 8, 8a, and 16. Claims 1 and 25 recite, among other things, a first stop. The actual form of the stop is not defined in the generic Claims 1 and 25. As such, these claims read on both Species I, in which the first stop includes a shoulder, and on Species II, in which the first stop includes a swaged portion, in addition to other stops not illustrated in the application. As such, Applicant reserves the right to add in claims directed to the subject matter of Species II at a later date.

The undersigned attorney is available for a telephone conference to discuss the application.

Respectfully submitted,



Casimir F. Laska
Reg. No. 30,862

Docket No.: 018367-9819-00
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
100 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4108

(414) 271-6560